

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-14 NIC-01 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /139 W

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R 271641Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5682

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: ACTIONS BY POLITICAL LEFT

1. SUMMARY. UNITED DEMOCRATIC LEFT, NOW JOINED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INTERIOR, BECAME FIRST LEGALLY RECOGNIZED POLITICAL PARTY THIS WEEK THROUGH FILING AFFIDAVIT CONFIRMING NON-VIOLENT APPROACH. COMMUNIST PARTY OF EXTERIOR REMAINS POUTY, SUSPICIOUS, AND INEPT IN ITS FIRST FEW DAYS OF LEGAL EXISTENCE. FAILURE OF LEFT TO COALESCE THUS FAR, CARAMANLIS' FURTHER HINTS THAT HE NOT YET FINISHED WITH PROSECUTION OF LEADING JUNTA PERSONALITIES, AND FOUNDING OF NEW CENTER LEFT POLITICAL PARTY (SEPTOL) SUGGEST EXTREME LEFT REMAINS STYMIED, MAKING ONLY SMALL NOISES IN A POLITICAL ARENA DOMINATED BY OTHER FORCES. END SUMMARY.

2. UNITED DEMOCRATIC LEFT (EDA) BECAME FIRST LEGALLY RECOGNIZED POLITICAL PARTY BY FILING REQUIRED DECLARATION ON SEPTEMBER 26 OF ITS OPPOSITION TO ANY ACT AIMED AT VIOLENT OVERTHROW OF DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT. EDA'S REPEATED CALLS FOR LEFTIST UNITY AND PROFFER OF ITS OWN ORGANIZATION AS BRIDGE TO COOPERAT-

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ION WERE FINALLY ANSWERED WITH ACCEPTANCE BY COMMUNIST PARTY

INTERIOR FACTION. A KKE (INTERIOR) BULLETIN PUBLISHED IN AVGHI SEPTEMBER 27 SAID: "FOLLOWING SUBMISSION BY ELIAS ELIOU OF DECLARATION REQUIRED UNDER ARTICLE 59 OF LAW REGARDING POLITICAL PARTIES, THE KKE OF INTERIOR REITERATES THAT IT PARTICIPATES IN THE EDA AND IN THE EFFORTS FOR THE RECONSTITUTION OF THIS LARGE DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. WHILE MAINTAINING ITS ORGAZATIONAL AUTONOMY AND ITS RIGHT TO POLITICAL INITIATIVES, THE KKE OF THE INTERIOR SUPPORTS THE EFFORTS OF ELIAS ELIOU TO ATTAIN UNITY OF ACTION FOR ALL FORCES OF THE LEFT". ELIOU THUS, NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, REGAINS HIS TRADITIONAL PARTNER; ALL OTHER CANDIDATES - THE KKE OF EXTERIOR, PAPANDREOU AND OTHER "NEW" FORCES - ARE PROVING STANDOFFISH.

3. THE EXTERIOR FACTION OF KKE IS EMPHASIZING ITS SEPARATENESS FROM ALL OTHER POLITICAL FORCES BUT ITS SULKY AIR AND SLAVISH RELIANCE UPON SOVIET CONNECTIONS IS LARGELY FRUSTRATING WHATEVER RESPECTABILITY IT MIGHT HOPE TO REALIZE THROUGH RECENT LEGALIZATION. THIS WEEK'S TACTICS, MOST OF THEM INADVERTENTLY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE INCLUDE: DENOUNCING THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS AS DISHONEST, CALLING ATTENTION TO PARTY LEADER'S FLORAKIS INTERVIEW ON MOSCOW TV, INVITING RUSSIAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN A PARTY MEETING IN CENTRAL GREECE, AND PLASTERING AN ISSUE OF ITS ORGAN RIZOSPASTIS WITH HOARY REVOLUTIONARY PHOTOS THAT TO THE AVERAGE GREEK READER ONLY SERVE TO RECALL SOVIET LINE OF THE 1920'S AND HORRORS OF GREECE'S CIVIL WAR IN LATE 1940'S.

4. KKE DENUNCIATION OF ELECTIONS WAS IN NAME OF CUMMUNIST ORGANIZATION OF GREECE (KOA), FIRST AND NEW ORGANIZATIONAL VOICE FOR KKE SINCE ITS LEGALIZATION. KOA STATEMENT SAID ELECTIONS COULD NOT BE HONEST "HILE JUNTA REMAINS UNPUNISHED AND PLOTTING AGAINST THE PEOPLE." KKE RESUMED PUBLICATION OF ITS FORMER DAILY, RIZOSPASTIS, ON SEPTEMBER 24 WITH AN ISSUE THAT INNOCUOUSLY ENOUGH ADDRESSED GREETINGS TO VARIOUS GROUPS RANGING FROM GUERRILLA EXILES TO KINDERGARTNERS. ITS ISSUE OF SEPTEMBER 26, CELEBRATING FOUNDING ON SEPTEMBER 27, 1941, OF THE NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION (EAM) REPRODUCED A NUMBER OF REVOLUTIONARY PROPAGANDA PHOTOS NOT SEEN FOR DECADES IN THE COUNTRY AND NARRATED EAM HISTORY IN PURELY PAROCHIAL, COMMUNIST TERMS. THIS LAY-OUT WAS, UNFORTUNATELY, CONTAINED IN INNER PAGES WHERE MOST GREEKS WILL NEVER SEE IT. ISSUE OF SEPTEMBER 26 REPORTED FLORAKIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERVIEW WITH MOSCOW TV IN WHICH KKE GENERAL SECRETARY THANKED USSR FOR ITS DEVOTION TO PEACE AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AS ILLUSTRATED BY SOVIET POLICY RE CYPRUS. RESUMPTION OF RIZOSPASTIS AS DAILY COMMUNIST PAPER MEANS THAT NEA ELLADA, WHICH LAST WEEK HAD BECOME DAILY, WILL REVERT TO BEING SUNDAY ORGAN ONLY. IN OTHER PUBLIC STANDS, KKE HAS SHARPLY OBJECTED TO NEED TO FILE AFFIDAVIT OF NON-VIOLENT POLITICS, VIEWING THIS AS CONDITION LIMITING TRULY FREE ELECTIONS, AS WELL AS INSULTING

TO KKE WHOSE PEACEFUL INTENT ALREADY WELL ESTABLISHED. KKE IS EXPECTED TO SUBMIT AFFIDAVIT IN DUE COURSE.

5. ELEFTHEROS COSMOS ALONE REPORTED THAT KKE REGIONAL MEETING IN PUBLIC HALL IN LARISSA SEPTEMBER 25 WAS ATTENDED BY TWO RUSSIAN NEWSMEN, FIRST SECRETARY (NAME NOT GIVEN) AND CULTURAL ATTACHE, GENADI PIVOVAROFF, OF SOVET EMBASSY, ATHENS. PRESENCE OF LATTER TWO, IF TRUE, WAS OF COURSE HIGHLY NOVEL CONTRIBUTION TO FIRST PUBLIC COMMUNIST MEETING ANYWHERE IN GREECE. EMBASSY CHECKING REPORT AND IDENTITY OF ANY RUSSIAN OFFICIALS PRESENT.

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6. COSMOS HAS BECOME SELF-SERVING SPOKESMAN FOR EXTREME RIGHT AND PRIMARY WATCHDOG AGAINST COMMUNISTS. ITS INITIAL EFFORT SIX WEEKS AGO TO SAVE ITS SAGGING REPUTATION AND CIRCULATION BY ACTING AS MAJOR CRITIC OF ANDREAS PAPANDREOU WAS OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS, ANDREAS' RELATIVELY GOOD BEHAVIOR SINCE HIS RETURN TO GREECE AND LEGALIZATION OF KKE. ITS TONE REFLECTED IN RECENT EDITORIALS: "THE NATIONALISTS HAVE BEEN ABANDONED" (SEPTEMBER 25) AND "IS THE GOVERNMENT LOSING ITS MIND?" (SEPTEMBER 26). FORMER CLAIMED THAT PATRIOTIC AND NATIONALIST GREEKS HAVE BEEN ABANDONED

BY THE MARCH OF EVENTS WHICH GIVE LEGITIMACY TO COMMUNISTS WHILE
DENYING HONOR TO TRUE PATRIOTS; LATTER ACCUSED GOG SPOKESMAN
LAMBRIAS OF INSANITY FOR SAYING THAT STATE SECURITY ORGANS WOULD
NO LONGER CHECK KKE ACTIVITIES. ESTIA ALSO SUPPORTED THIS REFRAIN
IN A SEPTEMBER 24 EDITORIAL WHICH LAMENTED THAT COMMUNISTS ARE
NOW PERMITTED TO DENIGRATE NATIONAL-MINDED PEOPLE AS TRAITORS
WHO COLLABORATED WITH THE MILITARY REGIME. ATHENS PRESS GENERALLY
DOES NOT SHARE SUCH ANXIETIES. KATHIMERINI OPINED, FOR EXAMPLE,
THAT LEGALIZATION WILL HELP CLARIFY POLITICAL LOYALTIES AND
SEPARATE THOSE COMMUNISTS WHO BELIEVE IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES
FROM COMMUNIST FANATICS WHO WILL BE ISOLATED AS WELL AS UNCOVERED
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AND THAT CARAMANLIS HAS ONCE MORE PULLED THE RUG OUT FROM
LEFTIST CLAMOR.
KUBISCH

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